



I-5 Widening Project Moves to Construction



◆ **May 19 Open House Scheduled** ◆

With the recent approval of the nickel gas tax increase by the state legislature, the Interstate 5 widening project is moving forward into construction after being on hold for several months.

- Adding financial incentives to the construction contract for opening the NE 129th Street bridge sooner than the contract requirements.

Project Description

This is the third in a series of projects underway since 1996 to widen I-5 between Main Street and NE 134th Street. When finished, the interstate's capacity will increase and allow motorists to move more safely and efficiently through the I-5 corridor.

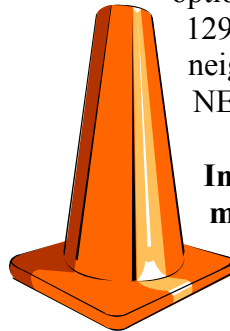
This project will:

- Widen I-5 between NE 99th Street (Salmon Creek) and NE 134th Street from four lanes to six plus auxiliary lanes.
- Replace the NE 129th Street bridge over I-5.
- Replace the northbound and southbound bridges over Salmon Creek near Salmon Creek Park.
- Add an additional lane and a second left-turn lane at the northbound I-5 off ramp to 134th Street.

Traffic Impacts

Construction plans will close the NE 129th Street bridge for five months. The closure is tentatively scheduled from January 2004 through May 2004.

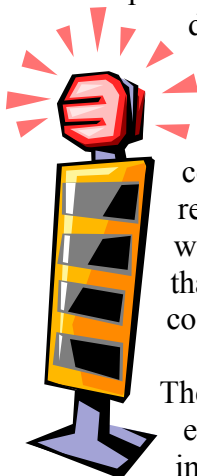
WSDOT and Clark County have considered various options for easing the impact of the NE 129th Street bridge closure on surrounding neighborhoods—especially those living on NE 12th Avenue.



Information on temporary traffic management during the bridge closure will be available at the May 19 Open House.

Public Input Contributes to Improved Schedule and Budget

In early 2002, the community and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) discussed the approach to replacing the NE 129th Street bridge. From these discussions, it was determined that the best possible method was to completely close the bridge during reconstruction. This would allow the work to be finished much more quickly than other options and at a much lower cost.



These community discussions also enabled WSDOT to make improvements to its plan, including:

- Modifying the bridge design to reduce the amount of time it will take to build the bridge (originally one year and now about five months).
- Adding financial penalties to the construction contract if the closure of the NE 129th Street bridge extends beyond the timeframe indicated.

Project Schedule

Right now WSDOT is soliciting bids on the project from interested construction contractors. Construction will start in late July or early August and WSDOT expects the project to be completed by the summer of 2006.

Closure of the NE 129th Street bridge will occur early in the construction schedule (winter of 2003). This is because early removal and replacement of the bridge is critical to reducing the amount of time necessary for the overall project. WSDOT and Clark County coordinated this schedule to ensure bridge access when the county begins their Highway 99 realignment project in Summer 2004.

As the closure of the NE 129th Street bridge approaches, WSDOT will post road closure signs on the approaches to the bridge and remind emergency services, businesses, and residents about the project.

WSDOT also is working with the Salmon Creek Elementary School to minimize construction impacts to bus routes and the school's own renovation schedule.



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

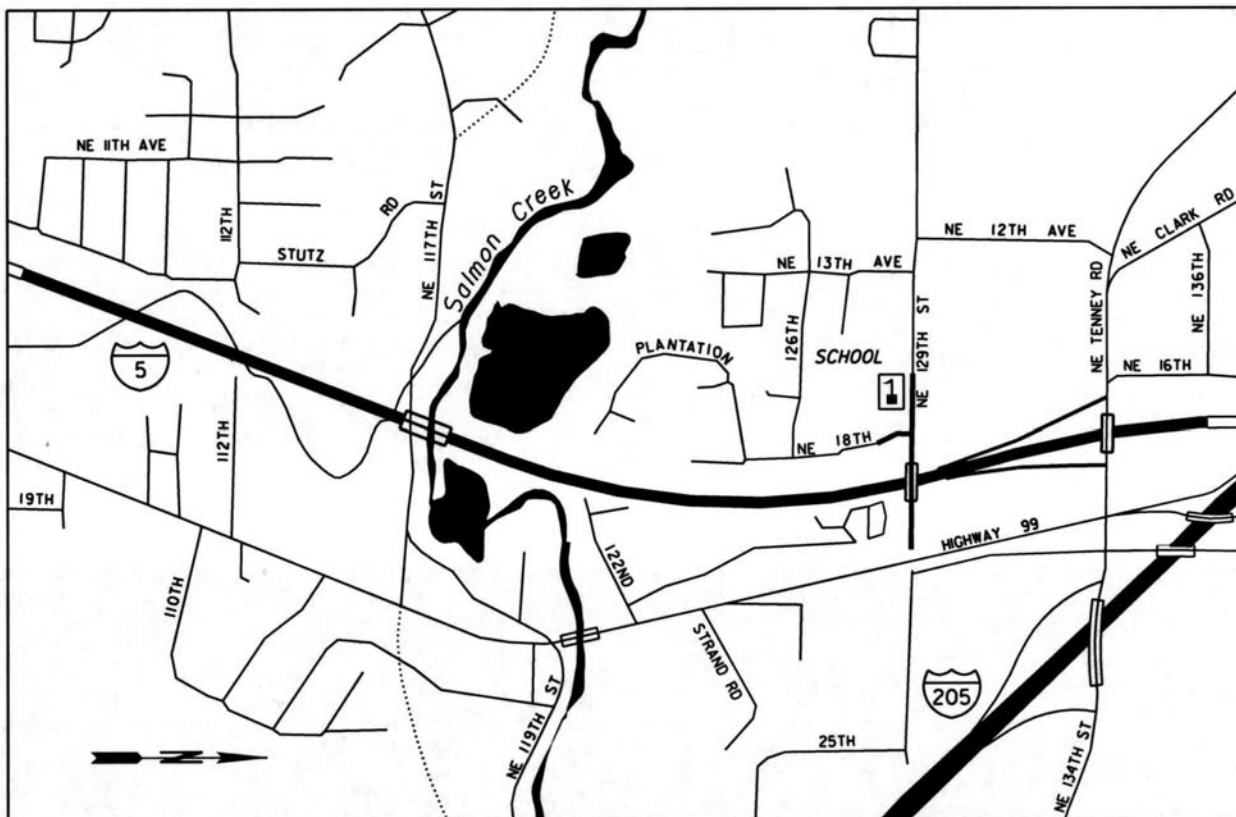
POSTAL CUSTOMER

I-5 Widening (NE 99th Street to I-205) Project

◆ *OPEN HOUSE* ◆

Monday, May 19, 2003 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Salmon Creek Elementary School Cafeteria
1601 NE 129th Street
Vancouver, WA

Learn about the I-5 widening construction schedule, traffic management plans and other state and county transportation projects in the area.



PROJECT AREA

Our Commitment to Communication

WSDOT will provide updates on construction and traffic impacts to the traveling public. For additional information on this project:

- Call WSDOT's Vancouver Area Engineering Office at 360-905-1500.
- Send an e-mail to swl-5widening@wsdot.wa.gov
- Visit our project Web site at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/I5SalmonCreektoI205/>.
- Watch for future newsletters at key project milestones.